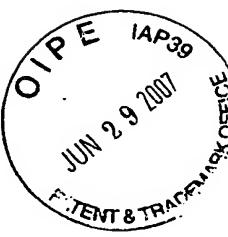
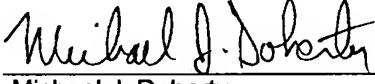
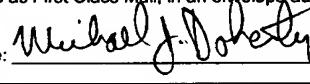


JF / IFW



AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER				After Final Rejection	
Application No. 10/725,306	Filing Date December 1, 2003	Examiner K. Sonnett	Group Art Unit 3731		
Applicant(s): James D. Ralph and Thomas N. Troxell				Docket No. SPINE 3.0-451 CONT	
Invention: DISTRACTION INSTRUMENT FOR USE IN ANTERIOR CERVICAL FIXATION SURGERY					
TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS					
Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.					
The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.					
CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims	14	- 20 =	0	x 50.00	0.00
Independent Claims	3	- 3 =	0	x 200.00	0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee (please specify):					
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:					0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large Entity			<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for this amendment.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 12-1095 as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.					
			Dated: June 26, 2007		
Michael J. Doherty Attorney Reg. No. 40,592					
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP 600 South Avenue West Westfield, New Jersey 07090 (908) 518-6337					
I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.					
Dated: June 26, 2007		 (Michael J. Doherty)			

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: June 26, 2007

Signature: *Michael J. Doherty*
(Michael J. Doherty)

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Group Art Unit: 3731

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-451 CONT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Ralph et al.

Application No.: 10/725,306

Filed: December 1, 2003

For: DISTRACTION INSTRUMENT FOR USE
IN ANTERIOR CERVICAL FIXATION
SURGERY

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: Group Art Unit: 3731

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: Examiner: K. Sonnett

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

MS AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 4, 2007,
please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as
follows: